

# Sundry Lawes against Swearing, Cursing and Blaspheming the most holy Name of God.

## The Law of God.

**H**E that blasphemeth the name of God, shall  
die for it; all the multitude shall know him  
to death: whether he be a stranger or Citizen,  
if he blasphemeth the name of the Lord, let him  
die the death. This was executed on the  
sonne of an Israelitish woman, because hee  
blasphemed the name of the Lord, hee was  
first put in prison, and after wards, at the commandment of  
God, hee was hanged to death, *Leu. 24. 14.*

## The Law of King Henry the fifth.

**K**ING HENRY the fifth made a Statute for  
swearers in his owne Palace, that if he were a Duke  
that he should sweare, hee should paye for every time forty  
shillings, to the reliefe of poore people: if he were a  
Lord or Baron twenty shillings: if hee were a Knight or  
Esquire, ten shillings: if hee were a Freeman, three shillings  
four pence: if hee were Page, Lackey or Valet, to be scourged  
with rods or else with a whip: *Wal. Jen. in quodam Serm.*

## The Law of our now most dread Soueraigne Lord, IAMES, King of Great Brittain, France and Ireland, against prophane Swearing and Cursing.

**I**T is ordeined, That every common Swearer or Cursor,  
shall paye every time in swearing, cursing or perjury, to the  
treasury of the poore of the parish, where the same offence is  
done, the summe of twelve pence. And it  
shall be lawful for the Constable, Churchwardens and Over-  
seers of the poore of that parish, by warrant from such Justice  
of peace as shall be directed, to levy the same summe of money  
of any, by distress, and sale of the offenders goods, coming  
to the parish the next time. And in defect of such distress, the  
Swearer, if he be as the he above the age of twelve yeeres, shall  
be bound to the Justice by these twelve pence. And if the Swearer  
be under the age of twelve yeeres, and shall not faithfully  
pay the said summe of twelve pence: Then he or she, by war-  
rant of such Justice of peace, as shall be directed, shall be whipt  
by the Constable, or by the Parson or Minister in his presence:  
*Anno 11. Jacobi Regis, Cap. 20.*

## The Law of King Edmund.

**K**ING EDMUND made this Law: that they  
which were psones once fully sworn, should for  
ever be separated from Gods Congregation. In Chro.  
of Brittain.

## The Law of Donaldus King of Scots.

**D**ONALDVS SEXTVS, King of Scots, made  
this Law in his Land, that all Perjurors or common  
Swearers, should have their lips sealed with an hot  
burning Iron: *Heft. Boetius in Hist. Scottorum.*

## The Law of Lodowicke the French King.

**T**his Law ordeined his Lodowicke the French King  
enact also, and put in execution at Paris upon a Citiz-  
en there, for blaspheming the Name of Christ, with  
the example of others, and so caused it to be special-  
ly med throughout his Reigne for a generall punishment, In  
Chro. of France.

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## The Law of Philip the French King.

**P**HILIP the French King, whoesoever he perceived  
to blaspheme the name of God, either in Caverns or  
elsewhere, yet, though hee were a man of great vig-  
nity, commanded that they should be hanged, and  
caused a strong Act to be made of it a little before his death, and  
left it to his Successors, Vincentius in speculo.

## The Law of Philip, Earle of Flaunders.

**P**HILIP, Earle of Flaunders, made this Constitution  
within his Court, in the year of our Lord God,  
1508. that he that did swear himselfe, should lose his  
life and goods, Iacobus Maierius in Chro. Flaunders.

## The Law of Maximilian the Emperour.

**M**AXIMILIAN the Emperour made also a De-  
cret, that whoesoever hee was that wore a common  
Swearer, should for the first time lose thirtene shil-  
lings four pence: and if hee were not content with  
that, he should lose his head: which Act he and the Nobility of  
the Empire caused to be published four times in the year,  
that is to say, at Easter, Whitsontide, Assumption of our blas-  
ted Lady the Virgin, and Christmas: In Paralip. rerum  
memorab.

## The Law and Counsell of Iosephus.

**T**he Counsell of Iosephus is this, that if any one blas-  
pheme God, and uttereth his name by disdain-  
full swearing, he should be hanged to death, and then  
hanged by the space of one day, and so taken down  
and buried without all manner of honour: *Lib. 4. Anti. Cap. 6.*

## The Egyptians Law.

**T**he Egyptians Law was, that none should sweare at  
all, except it were for a twofold cause: and if any were  
found to have perjured, the same should lose his head,  
Iohannes Bohemius Libro Histor. primo.

## The Law of the Scythians.

**T**he Scythians Law was, that if any among them  
could be psones to be a notable Swearer, as such a one  
as would forsweare himselfe, the same being convicted of  
the fault, should, without further, nor delay lose his  
head, but goods also: which they should have that psones him  
perjured, *Idem libro secundo.*

## The Romanes Law.

**T**he Romanes Law was, that all such as were found  
to be perjurors, should have thirtene stones heaved  
from the toppe of an high Roche called Harpeius.  
*Ex. 12. Tabul.*

## Certaine Sentences out of the holy Scriptures.

**T**hou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in  
vaine: for the Lord will not hold him guiltlesse, that  
taketh his name in vaine: *Exod. 20.*

## Ecclesiasticus. 23. 9.

**L**et not thy mouth utter oaths swearing: for in it are many  
falses. And like as a servant which is often punished,  
cannot be without some feare: even so, whoesoever swears  
and nameth God in vaine, shall not be cleane purged from  
sinne. A man that doeth much swearing, shall be filled with  
wickenes, and the plague shall never goe from his house.

**T**he words of the Swearer being death. God grant it be  
not found in the House of Iacob. But they that curse  
God, offend all such, and live not in holiness in name.

FINIS. Thomas Wray.